

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01775 201415Z

67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ( ISO ) W

----- 064964

R 201404Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6995

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01775

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, US, VS, PDIP

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON JACQUES MASSENET

REF: PARIS 33927

1. JACQUES MASSENET RECENTLY ARRIVED IN SAIGON TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES AS "CONSUL GENERAL". HE WILL BE OPERATING WITHOUT ANY EXEQUATOR UNTIL AFTER THE "RE-UNIFICATION" OF VIETNAM, BUT WILL BE PERMITTED TO PERFORM THE PRIMARILY CONSULAR FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY HIS PREDECESSORS WHO WERE IN CHARGE OF THE REMNANT FRENCH MISSION IN SAIGON. HE IS CITED SPECIFICALLY AS REPLACING THE FORMER CONSUL GENERAL, LE CARUYER DE BEAUVAIS, AND NOT AMBASSADOR MERILLON OR THE DCM WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY HEADED THE MISSION IN SAIGON.

2. MASSENET WAS BORN IN 1921. HE TOOK DEGREES IN LETTERS AND LAW BEFORE SERVING IN THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES 1942 TO 1945. AFTER THE WAR HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE. HIS POSTS WERE: SHANGHAI, 1945 TO 1946; BANGKOK, 1946 TO 1948; PARIS, 1948 - 1949; NEW DELHI, 1949 - 1951; FLORENCE, 1951 - 1953; PARIS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 01775 201415Z

1953 - 1957 (AMERICAN SECTION, INFORMATION AND PRESS

SECTION, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS); RANGOON 1957; FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO ECAFE, 1957 - 1959, DETACHED TO NATO 1959 - 1960; PARIS 1960 - 1961 (POLITICAL AFFAIRS); COUNSELLOR IN PHNOM PENH, 1962 - 1964; INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE STUDIES, 1964 - 1965; CONSUL GENERAL IN BOSTON 1965 - 1970; FIRST COUNSELLOR (DCM) IN YAOUNDE 1970 - 1972; PARIS 1973 - 1975 (UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS).

3. MASSENET KNOWS THAT AT FIRST HIS PRINCIPAL AND ALMOST ONLY TASK WILL BE OVERSEEING THE REMAINING FRENCH CITIZENS (NOW MOSTLY OF ASIAN ORIGIN) AND SUPERVISING THE EVACUATION OF THE LARGE NUMBER WHO ARE BEING "REPATRIATED" TO FRANCE. HE WAS TOLD THAT AS A RESULT OF THE COURCEL MISSION TO HANOI, HE COULD EXPECT TO PLAY A BROADER ROLE AFTER REUNIFICATION WHEN HE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE RETURN OF SOME FRENCHMEN TO SAIGON TO MANAGE CERTAIN FRENCH ENTERPRISES AND IN TRADE AND AID MATTERS CONCERNING THE SOUTH.

4. AMERICANS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE KNOWN MASSENET HAVE A HIGH OPINION OF HIM. HE IS ONLY A COUNSELLOR 2ND CLASS, A RATHER LOW RANK GIVEN HIS AGE, BUT THE RANK IS CONSIDERED NOT SO MUCH A REFLECTION ON HIS ABILITY AS A RESULT OF HIS LACK OF INTEREST IN INTRIGUING FOR MORE RAPID PROMOTION. MASSENET IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTER WHO DOES NOT TRIM HIS POSITIONS TO SUIT THE POLITICAL WHIMS OF THE MOMENT AND IS EXPECTED TO REPORT VERY OBJECTIVELY FROM SAIGON. THE ASSIGNMENT WAS NO DOUBT APPROVED BY THE ELYSEE, WHICH WAS PROBABLY PLEASED TO SEE A PROFESSIONAL, WHO WAS NOT PUSHING ONE POLITICAL VIEW OR ANOTHER, GO TO THIS SENSITIVE POST. ONE SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT DESPITE HIS EXTENSIVE ASIAN EXPERIENCE, MASSENET HAS NEVER SERVED IN VIETNAM, NEITHER UNDER THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION NOR IN THE DRV OR GVN. HE HAS, THEREFORE, A COMBINATION OF ASIAN EXPERIENCE AND LACK OF COMPROMISE IN VIETNAM. WE BELIEVE THAT MASSENET WILL BE HELPFUL TO AMERICANS IN SAIGON WITHIN THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND THE VIETNAMESE. HE SHOULD ALSO BE WORTH TALKING TO WHEN HE TRAVELS OUT OF

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PAGE 03 PARIS 01775 201415Z

SAIGON TO BANGKOK, WHICH HE MAY DO FROM TIME TO TIME.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, FR, US, VS, (MASSENET, JACQUES)  
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